

**MAC THORNBERRY**  
13TH DISTRICT  
TEXAS



**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives

October 21, 2009

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201-0001

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

Based upon recent reports, I write you to express my concern the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been slow in fulfilling orders placed by the State of Texas for the H1N1 influenza vaccine.

As you are aware, the CDC reports that relatively few doses of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine have been shipped to Texas. I am concerned that due to delays in fulfilling these orders, the vaccine will not arrive until after the peak of the H1N1 virus. I respectfully request information on how the Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC plan to mitigate these delays and your assurance that the State of Texas will have an adequate supply of H1N1 influenza vaccine when it is needed.

The influenza activity in Texas is currently widespread across the state. 487 people have been hospitalized and 82 people have already died from the H1N1 virus in Texas. Hundreds of positive cases are also being confirmed each week. In the past month alone, 9 campuses in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas have implemented closures affecting more than 1790 students and 325 faculty members because of the H1N1 virus. This is especially troublesome due to the fact that 243 of the hospitalizations and 20 of the H1N1 deaths in Texas have been children below the age of eighteen. We must do all that we can to slow the spread of this virus.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to working with you to limit the further spread of the H1N1 flu virus.

Sincerely,

Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

WMT/ms